

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An information management apparatus capable of reliable management of distributed information and an information providing system employing the same information management apparatus has a main  
5 information reproducing system for reproducing main information recorded in a given recording medium; and a reproduction management system for managing the main information reproducing system for reproducing the main information. A receiver is provided with a unit for recording distributed information and control information limiting the number of main information  
10 reproducing cycles on a recording medium, and a main information reproducing system provided with a reproduction disabling function for limiting the reproduction of main information.